

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HAMBURG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 014175 TOSEC 010035

EXDIS

FOR HARTMAN. HAMBURG PASS TO REAR ADMIRAL HOLCOMB WITH SECDEF'S PARTY.

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 919 ACTION SECSTATE NATO 19 JAN

QUOTE

S E C R E T BONN 00919

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USNMR SHAPE AND CINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, US, GW

SUBJECT: NORTHAG BRIGADE STATIONING

REF: BONN 831

1. DR. STUETZLE, ASSISTANT TO MINISTER LEBER, TODAY

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INFORMED THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT CHANCELLOR

SCHMIDT HAS ON HIS DESK A LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD REGARDING THE STATIONING OF THE NORTHAG BRIGADE. STUETZLE BELIEVES THE CHANCELLOR WILL SIGN THE LETTER TOMORROW MORNING WHEN HE RETURNS FROM COPENHAGEN.

2. STUETZLE SAID THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT FINDS THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT POLITICAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC CONCEPTS INVOLVED IN THE STATIONING OF THIS BRIGADE, AND THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S LETTER IS INTENDED TO LEAD TOWARD SUCH A DISCUSSION.

3. STUETZLE SAID THE FRG CONTINUES TO FAVOR STATIONING OF THE BRIGADE AS A BASIC PRINCIPLE. IT WISHES, HOWEVER, TO HAVE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING ON THE POLITICAL PURPOSES OF THIS BRIGADE AND, IN PARTICULAR, WISHES TO HAVE SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING DERIVED THROUGH FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. FOR EXAMPLE, STUETZLE SAID, AT THIS POINT EVEN SUCH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF THE NORTHAG BRIGADE AND THEY HAVE NOT EVIDENCED THEIR APPROVAL AT A POLITICAL LEVEL.

4. THEREFORE, STUETZLE ARGUED, THERE WAS A DANGER THAT THE BRIGADE WOULD BE SEEN SIMPLY AS A BILATERAL US/FRG ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH THE OTHER ALLIES HAD NO INTEREST. THIS WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE, STUETZLE SAID, FROM BOTH THE FINANCIAL AND THE POLITICAL STANDPOINTS.

5. STUETZLE SAID THAT THE FRG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS TERRITORY BECOMING SIMPLY A KIND OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER FOR US AND OTHER ALLIED FORCES. HE RECALLED, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR SUPPLY OUT OF GERMANY DURING THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. HE ALSO CITED THE FACT THAT MUCH OF THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE IS NOW ROTATING THROUGH IRELAND. HE SAID THAT THE FRG WAS BEING PUT INTO A POSITION WHERE IT APPEARED, IN EFFECT, TO SANCTION THESE DEPLOYMENTS ON ITS OWN RATHER THAN AS

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PART OF AN ALLIANCE. THIS, IF CONTINUED, COULD GENERATE A POLITICAL BURDEN THAT THE FRG COULD NOT CARRY INTERNATIONALLY.

6. ON THE FINANCIAL SIDE, STUETZLE OBSERVED THAT PAYING 100 MILLION DM OR THE LIKE FOR THE INITIAL STATIONING COSTS OF THE BRIGADE DID NOT REPRESENT A PROBLEM. HE FELT THAT THE FRG COULD DEFEND THAT TYPE

OF EXPENDITURE BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG. WHAT BOTHERED THE FRG MORE WAS THE NOTION THAT IT MIGHT HAVE TO CONTINUE TO PAY THE STATIONING EXPENSES FOR THESE BRIGADES OVER A LONG PERIOD.

7. STUETZLE SAID THAT THE FRG DELEGATION TO THE NPG MEETING WOULD TRY TO BRING ALONG A COPY OF THE CHANCELLOR'S LETTER TO SHOW TO SECRETARY RUMSFELD. HE ASSUMED THE LETTER ITSELF WOULD BE DELIVERED THROUGH THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, BUT HE WOULD ALSO TRY TO MAKE A COPY AVAILABLE TO US.

8. COMMENT: WE ASSUME, SINCE LEBER DID NOT TELL THE AMBASSADOR DURING THEIR MEETING LAST THURSDAY ABOUT ANY SCHMIDT LETTER, THAT THE CHANCELLOR ONLY DECIDED ON SUCH A LETTER AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH LEBER. THIS WOULD INDICATE, WE ASSUME, THAT LEBER NOTIFIED THE CHANCELLOR OF THE AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH AND OF SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S MESSAGE, AND THAT THE CHANCELLOR DECIDED THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER HAD TO BE RAISED TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN ORDER TO PERMIT A COMMON POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING TO BE REACHED.

DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON JANUARY 16, THE CHANCELLOR DID NOT MENTION HE WAS SENDING A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT ON THIS SUBJECT. IN A PASSING REFERENCE, HOWEVER, TO THE NORTHAG BRIGADE, HE DID SAY THAT HE WAS TROUBLED BY ONE ASPECT OF THE PROPOSED TROOP REINFORCEMENT AND THAT WAS THE USE OF THE FRG AS A SORT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER FOR OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE. HE ADDED THAT HE WANTED TO THINK ABOUT THIS FURTHER. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THAT THE NORTHAG BRIGADE WAS BEING SENT AS A GENUINE REIN-
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FORCEMENT FOR NATO WITH NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
HILLENBRAND UNQUOTE SISCO

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